

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is required in order to make an examiner's amendment which places this application in condition for allowance.

During a telephone conversation conducted on 4 January 2010, attorney Steven M. Greenberg requested an extension of time for 3 MONTH(S) and authorized the Director to charge Deposit Account No. 503829 the required fee of \$525 for this extension and authorized the following examiner's amendment. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A collaborative file rights management method comprising:
 - identifying a file input/output (I/O) request to access a file, said file I/O request originating in an authoring application;
 - ~~suppressing~~ quashing said file I/O request;

automatically extracting digital rights management data appended to
said file;

providing said file to said authoring application; and

managing access to said file in said authoring application based upon
said extracted digital rights management data[.];

wherein said quashing step comprises:

posting a responsive message to said authoring application;

intercepting an operating system event in said authoring application,
said operating system event indicating receipt of said responsive message;
and,

suppressing further processing of said intercepted operating system
event by the authoring application in the case when said responsive message
is an "access denied" message.

5. (Canceled)

12. (Amended) A collaborative file rights management system comprising:

~~a file security management application configured to intercept~~
~~operating system messages directed to an authoring application; and,~~

a file security filter driver configured to identify file input/output (I/O) requests received in a kernel-layer file system manager to open an encrypted file in said authoring application;

said file security filter driver configured to ~~quashing~~ said file I/O requests, ~~decrypting~~ said encrypted file and ~~providing~~ provide said decrypted file and a responsive message to said authoring application; and

a file security management application configured to intercept operating system ~~messages~~ events directed to an authoring application, said intercepted operating system events indicating receipt of a responsive message;

said file security management application configured to ~~extracting~~ digital rights management data appended to said encrypted file, ~~detecting~~ among ~~intercepted operating system messages,~~ operating system ~~messages~~ events directed to authoring application operations which can be limited according to digital rights specified in said extracted digital rights management data, and ~~and~~ quashing suppress further processing of said detected operating system event in the cases when the responsive message is an "access denied" message, or said detected events where said digital rights

management data prohibits execution of said authoring application operations.

13. (Amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for managing digital rights in a collaborative file, said computer program comprising a routine set of instructions for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

identifying a file input/output (I/O) request to access a file, said file I/O request originating in an authoring application;

~~suppressing~~ quashing said file I/O request;

automatically extracting digital rights management data appended to said file;

providing said file to said authoring application; and

managing access to said file in said authoring application based upon said extracted digital rights management data[.];

wherein said quashing step comprises:

posting a responsive message to said authoring application;

intercepting an operating system event in said authoring application,

said operating system event indicating receipt of said responsive message;

and,

suppressing further processing of said intercepted operating system event by the authoring application in the case when said responsive message is an "access denied" message.

17. (Canceled)

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 12-16 and 18-20 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to a collaborative rights management method and system, wherein I/O requests to access a file are identified and quashed, digital rights management data is extracted from the file, and access to the file within an authoring application is managed based upon the extracted digital rights management data.

The closest prior art of record, **Ginter et al.** (U.S. Patent 5,910,987) teaches a system for secure transaction management and electronic rights protection, where the system ensures that content providers are paid for the use of distributed information and said information is used only in authorized ways (see col. 3, lines 50-59 et seq.).

McCurdy et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0035697) teaches a system that manages access to files based upon digital rights management data (see paragraphs [0137] through [0140]).

However, both **Ginter et al.** and **McCurdy et al.** fail to anticipate or render obvious the recited feature of posting a responsive message to the authoring application, intercepting operating system events indicating receipt of said responsive message, and suppressing further processing of said intercepted operating system event by the authoring application in the case where said responsive message is an "access denied" message, as in independent claims 1, 12 and 13.

These features, together with the other limitations of the independent claims are novel and non-obvious over the prior art of record. The dependent claims 2-4, 6-8, 14-

16 and 18-20 being definite, enabled by the specification, and further limiting to the independent claim, are also allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Luke S. Wassum whose telephone number is 571-272-4119. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-5:30, alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Cottingham can be reached on 571-272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

In addition, INFORMAL or DRAFT communications may be faxed directly to the examiner at 571-273-4119, or sent via email at luke.wassum@uspto.gov, **with a previous written authorization in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 502.03.** Such communications must be clearly marked as INFORMAL, DRAFT or UNOFFICIAL.

Customer Service for Tech Center 2100 can be reached during regular business hours at (571) 272-2100, or fax (571) 273-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



/Luke S. Wassum/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2167

lsw
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